

TOP SECRET//COMINT//TALENT KEYHOLE//REL TO USA, AUS, GBR



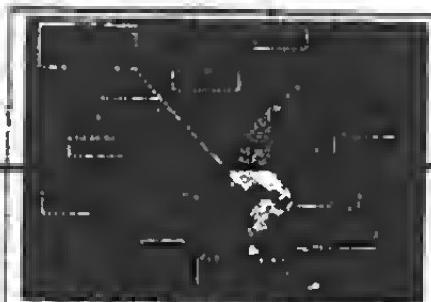
January 2009

(S//SI//REL TO USA, FVEY) Two New Collection Assets to Greatly Expand MHS Target Coverage

By: (U//PODCO) [REDACTED] Menwith Hill Station (F77)

(7606) (TS//SI//TK//REL) Menwith Hill Station will accept two new satellites in 2009 - an ORION spacecraft [REDACTED] and a NEMESIS spacecraft [REDACTED]. The arrival of these new vehicles will give MHS greater flexibility in missions, surveys, and signals development efforts and provide opportunities for collection, discovery, and sharing. [REDACTED] will also provide the Intelligence Community with an opportunity to use Overhead in a non-traditional way for a FORNSAT SIGDEV mission.

7606 (S//TK//REL) [REDACTED] currently has a launch date of 13 January 2009. After launch, Alice Springs Mission Ground Station will control [REDACTED] as it deploys and drifts westward, with MHS gaining control 50 days later.



7606 (S//TK//REL) MHS will perform two initial surveys before putting the spacecraft into full operation. If the current launch date stands, [REDACTED] will be fully operational sometime around mid May 2009. (Click [HERE](#) for larger image.)

7606 (TS//SI//TK//REL) [REDACTED]'s initial mission is a survey of the People's Republic of China (PRC). Line-of-sight microwave towers and radars, [REDACTED], will survey the area drifting from [REDACTED] east for approximately 30-45 days. At [REDACTED], [REDACTED] will pick up its new primary mission from [REDACTED]: Tharaya collection and Afghanistan/Pakistan surveillance.

7606 (TS//SI//TK//REL) After [REDACTED] transfers the Tharaya mission to [REDACTED], [REDACTED] will drift 0.1 degree a day west, continuing the PRC survey for approximately 200 more days. After completion of the PRC survey, [REDACTED] will take on a new mission targeting Latin America, Middle East and North Africa, greatly expanding MHS's target and coverage area.

7606 → **Mission**

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(S//TK//REL) [REDACTED] OI

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(TS//SI//TK//REL) Currently, [REDACTED] has a launch date of 11 April 2009. [REDACTED]'s mission will be Foreign Satellite (FORNSAT) collection from space - targeting commercial satellite uplinks not normally accessible via ground processing equipment. [REDACTED] will provide the Office of FORNSAT a "site in the sky" when denied a site on the ground for collection. Ground processing equipment is being put in place at MHS that can cover both drift/dwell and sustained collection.

new, lowered
at least in
2008.



(S//TK//REL) MHS expects to have full operations on [REDACTED] 85 days after launch. (Click [HERE](#) for larger image.)

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(TS//SI//TK//REL) The arrival of [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] at MHS will open up new opportunities for discovery and will enhance collection efforts for the intelligence community into areas not previously explored.

(U//FOUO) POC: [REDACTED]

(U//FOUO) SIDStduy Editor's note: This article is reprinted from MHS's Horizon newsletter, November 2008 edition.

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